

Health Cooperative, as well as two of his proudest accomplishments, *Rites of Passage: A Memoir of the Sixties* in Seattle and *The National Trust Guide: Seattle*.

In 1997, he and local historian Paul Dorpat, a dear friend and colleague from their days together at the Helix, tossed around the idea of publishing an encyclopedia of King County history. A book of this size and scope had not been published since Clarence Bagley's tome, written more than 70 years before. Worried that such a venture might prove to be too unwieldy, Walt's wife, Marie, suggested that an online encyclopedia would be a more suitable way to keep and maintain the historical record. Work soon began, and the rest is history . . . or shall we say, HistoryLink.

MAKING HISTORY

When HistoryLink launched in 1998, it was the first encyclopedia of community history created expressly for the Internet—an accomplishment that made Walt exceedingly proud. But being the first meant blazing trails where no historians had gone before, not only in designing and organizing the online encyclopedia, but also in competing for funding in a dot-com world. Walt always referred to our efforts as "venture socialism."

Helped along by a hand-picked staff—many of whom still write, edit, and contribute to the site—as well as by a topnotch board of trustees, HistoryLink.org grew to become a success, and in 2003 expanded its coverage statewide. Today it receives more than four million hits a month. It is read by students, teachers, journalists, genealogists, history buffs, and anybody who wants to know more about the people and events that shaped Washington's growth and development.

Besides penning some of HistoryLink's books, Walt wrote a large number of essays and editorials on topics that appealed to his interests, including state politics, political shifts, mayoral transitions, municipal ownership, civil violence, Seattle's neighborhoods, streetcars, monorails, aviation, the Space Needle, and even flying saucers. With such a wealth of Walt's words and knowledge and insight contained in our site, we here at HistoryLink.org take comfort in the fact that as we continue to grow and expand our content, we will never lose his voice—even though we have lost a colleague, a mentor, and most of all, our friend.

COMMENDING THE 1ST BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM/34TH INFANTRY DIVISION OF THE MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, today I rise strong support of H. Con. Res. 185. I join the gentleman from Minnesota, Mr. WALZ in offering this resolution. Our entire State joins together in welcoming home the 2,600 members of the Minnesota National Guard's 1st Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division who recently returned from Iraq.

During the 22-month deployment of the 1/34th BCT, these courageous citizen soldiers served Minnesota and our Nation with honor and dignity. Their service frequently put them in harm's way, and we are grateful for their safe return to their families. Since the war in Iraq began our friends, families and neighbors

who serve in the National Guard and Reserves have seen their dual roles as citizen soldiers expand as they have been called to serve in deployments across the world even as they continue the most important mission of all, protecting us in our communities here at home.

The men and women of the 1/34th have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to our country—a commitment to serve and a willingness to sacrifice in combat operations. Their 22-month activation in Iraq was the longest tour of any military unit to have served in Iraq thus far. These Minnesota soldiers have completed some of the most grueling combat assignments. We should also pause to remember the brave members of this unit who made the ultimate sacrifice during their deployment. Their service and sacrifice will never be forgotten.

My office stands ready to assist all military personnel and their families. I believe strongly that our Federal Government must keep its promise to all those who have served. Providing the necessary healthcare, education, and disability benefits to meet the needs of our veterans is both a responsibly and a moral obligation.

Regardless of where individuals stand on the issues that face this Nation in Iraq we all must continue to support the men and women who volunteer to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces all around the world.

As we welcome home members of the 1/34th, we must also keep in our thoughts and prayers the many active duty military personnel, Reservists and Minnesota Guard members who continue to serve in harm's way in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo, and elsewhere around the world. I commend each and every one of them for their strength, courage and dedication.

I would like to thank my colleague from Minnesota, Mr. WALZ, for bringing this important resolution to the House floor, and for his service to this country. I commend members of the Minnesota National Guard's 1st Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division.

TAIWAN PLANE SALES

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, despite recent aggressive behavior from China, Taiwan's democracy has continued to grow and flourish. I am pleased that this House can come together today in support of Taiwan.

China's industrial buildup in the last decade has been unprecedented. While Chinese citizens have been taking advantage of their increased economic freedom, the Chinese government has been using this economic growth to build up their military and position new and dangerous weapons along the Taiwan Strait.

The Taiwanese request to purchase 66 F-16 fighter planes will assist them in countering the growing threat of Chinese militarism. These weapons will allow the Taiwanese to balance the threat of hundreds of Chinese fighters and bombers that are stationed just on the other side of the Strait.

We have always stood by our friends in Taiwan and today we call on the President to en-

sure that that relationship stays as strong as ever. This House supports protecting the freedom of the Taiwanese people. Today, Taiwan is proof that a nation can successfully move from one-party rule to democracy and maintain its dynamic economy. I am hopeful that Chinese citizens can one day experience the same liberty as their counterparts in Taiwan.

WHY INTEGRATION MATTERS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce two stories written in the Washington Post on September 25, 2007 entitled, "A Little Rock Reminder" and "The Legacy of Little Rock", in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the integration of the school system of Little Rock, AR, by a brave group of Black children who came to be known as "The Little Rock Nine".

Integration has been a long and difficult process here in the United States. Only 50 years have passed since President Dwight Eisenhower decided to send soldiers to protect and defend the newly acquired rights of nine Black students to go to a previously all White school. Those brave Black students who endured the difficulties of starting the process of desegregation in schools in 1957 should be remembered and appreciated today, on the anniversary, and everyday.

It has been proven that integration is a key factor in the success of our society. A school where all races and nationalities work together is giving their students more than classes; they are teaching them the correct way to live, in harmony with the world. In addition it has been proven that an integrated learning environment leads to greater academic success.

Our society today still has a long way to go but it is a much healthier one than 50 years ago. These children were brave enough to understand what their parents and other leaders of their community knew—that they deserve the same rights as the next one; they too are citizens of the United States and all it represents. Their efforts need to be commended.

[From the Washington Post, Sept. 25, 2007]

A LITTLE ROCK REMINDER: NINE PIONEERS SHOWED WHY SCHOOL INTEGRATION MATTERS

(By Juan Williams)

Fifty years ago this week, President Dwight Eisenhower risked igniting the second U.S. civil war by sending 1,000 American soldiers into a Southern city. The troops, with bayonets at the end of their rifles, provided protection for nine black students trying to get into Little Rock's Central High School. Until the soldiers arrived, the black teenagers had been kept out by mobs and the Arkansas National Guard, in defiance of the Supreme Court's 1954 ruling ending school segregation.

The black children involved became the leading edge of a social experiment. Their lives offer answers to the question of what happens to black children who attend integrated schools, a question underscored by the recent Supreme Court ruling that voluntary school integration plans in Louisville and Seattle are unconstitutional.

The June decision said a focus on mixing students based on their skin color violates every student's right to be judged as an individual without regard to race. The ruling